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ABSTRACT

This book presents a step-by-step approach to organizing or strengthening volunteer groups to conserve and manage natural resources. The approach is applicable to both small focused groups and large nonprofit corporations. Three case studies point out the common characteristics of successful conservation organizations, including clear goals, a constructive and rewarding outlet, continuous progress toward meeting goals, and enjoyable group work. The first half of the book provides information and suggestions on: (1) identifying a mission that addresses a real conservation need; (2) cultivating support in the community; (3) creating a core group of people committed to the cause; (4) securing financial support; and (5) sponsoring meaningful and enjoyable activities. Also included are suggestions for planning the first group project, recruiting volunteers, and incorporating single projects into ongoing public service. The second half presents a brief overview of topics related to organizational development, including developing a mission statement, organizational structure, articles of incorporation/bylaws, filing for tax exempt status, fund-raising and membership development, and long-range planning. A bibliography and listing of additional sources are included. (LP)

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